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appreciated by their nation”....***

George Washington



Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Overview of today's meeting – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov



Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

Veterans Task Force Overview

2nd Meeting – October 5th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*



State Veterans Homes

- ***VA Medical Center – Tucson – Jonathan Gardner***



Veterans Benefits Counselors



Overview of State Veteran Cemeteries



Public Comments (based on time restraints)



Adjournment



Questions?





Thank you





Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

State Veteran Homes – Mark Laney

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov



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1700 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

Arizona State Veteran Home

- ✎ Opened November 11, 1995
- ✎ 200 Bed facility with a 50 bed Alzheimer's Unit
- ✎ Qualifications
- ✎ Veteran or Spouse of veteran
- ✎ Doctor needs to state need for nursing home care

Services provided

- ☞ Skilled Nursing
- ☞ Physical Therapy
- ☞ Occupational Therapy
- ☞ Speech Therapy
- ☞ Recreational Therapy
- ☞ Restorative Services
- ☞ Social Services
- ☞ IV care
- ☞ Wound Care
- ☞ Respite Care
- ☞ Hospice Services

State Veteran Home Cost

- 👉 Private pay
- 👉 Long term Care insurance
- 👉 Medicaid (Arizona Long Term Care)

Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

☞ Provide skilled nursing home care for veterans in southern Arizona

☞ Counties served will be

- *Cochise*
- *Graham*
- *Greenlee*
- *Pima*
- *Pinal*
- *Santa Cruz*
- *Yuma*

Composition of Veterans in southern Arizona

- 👉 39% of veterans living within the catchment area of proposed project are aged 65 or older
- 👉 1/2 of those veterans receiving health care through the VA are over age 65
- 👉 Pima County alone boasts 102,073 resident veterans (16% of its total population)

Veteran Population by County over 65 years of age

☞ Cochise - 5,932

☞ Graham – 1,162

☞ Greenlee – 237

☞ Pima – 39,455

☞ Pinal – 10,511

☞ Santa Cruz – 845

☞ Yuma – 8,703

Over 66,000 veterans over the age of 65
in the affected counties

Why another state home?

- 👉 Between 1998 and 2004 the national average daily census of veterans in state homes has grown from 14,674 to 18,409 - an increase of 3,735 which is an increase of 25%
- 👉 The current occupancy rate in state veterans nursing homes is 86% nationally and 96% in Arizona
- 👉 As of the 2000 census the veteran population in the United States was 26,549,704
- 👉 Census indicated that 562,916 veterans live in Arizona which equates to 15% of the state's civilian population
- 👉 Of those Arizona veterans 219,380 or 39% of them are 65 years or older
- 👉 The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act requires the VA to prescribe for each state the number of nursing home and domiciliary beds for which grants may be furnished

Why another state home?

- 👉 VA data and methodology confirms the need for nearly five 180 bed veteran nursing homes in addition to the current 200 bed facility located in Phoenix
- 👉 1,068 Maximum Arizona beds – 200 current Phoenix beds = 868 beds needed
- 👉 868 beds needed divided by 180 bed nursing home = 4 to 5 new homes needed
- 👉 Statistics tell us that more than 50% of those over age 80 require nursing home care
- 👉 Arizona, one of the nation's premier Sun Belt retirement destinations is projected to have the highest proportion of elderly citizens in the U.S. by 2020

Why Tucson?

- ☞ The Tucson veterans home project will allow the VA and ADVS to extend their combined reach in order to meet the needs of those Arizonans who selflessly served their country
- ☞ Jonathan Gardner – Director of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System has expressed his commitment to making the new home his hospitals primary referral site for veterans in need of long term care
- ☞ According to authorities in Tucson, SAVAHC could refer between 110 -120 patient per year
- ☞ Current Tucson VA have a short-term 40 bed rehabilitation center for veterans whose maximum stay is not more than 30-days

Cost of Home

- 👉 65/35
- 👉 Federal government will pay 65 percent (\$18,670,596)
- 👉 State of Arizona will pay only 35 percent (\$10,053,398)
- 👉 Total cost \$28,723,994

Benefits

- 👉 180 bed facility in Tucson
- 👉 Built on approximately 7 acres of federal land (valued in excess of \$1 million dollars)
- 👉 \$28 million dollar facility owned by the State of Arizona and managed by the ADVS
- 👉 Adjacent to the Ambulatory Care Center to provide specialty services

Some of the services we are considering providing at the ASVH-Tucson

- ☞ Full service kitchen
- ☞ Piped in oxygen
- ☞ Geriatrics residents partnership with the University of Arizona
- ☞ Behavioral Unit
- ☞ Bariactrics Unit
- ☞ Separate bathrooms
- ☞ Larger living areas
- ☞ User friendly Alzheimer's Unit
- ☞ Hydrotherapy

Synergy

- 👉 Based on the commitment of the Tucson VA Medical Center & the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to work together in the process of providing services and building relationships we will be able to service the veteran community more effectively.

Results

- ✎ A self-sustaining nursing facility that can provide quality skilled nursing home care for Arizona's deserving and underserved veterans.



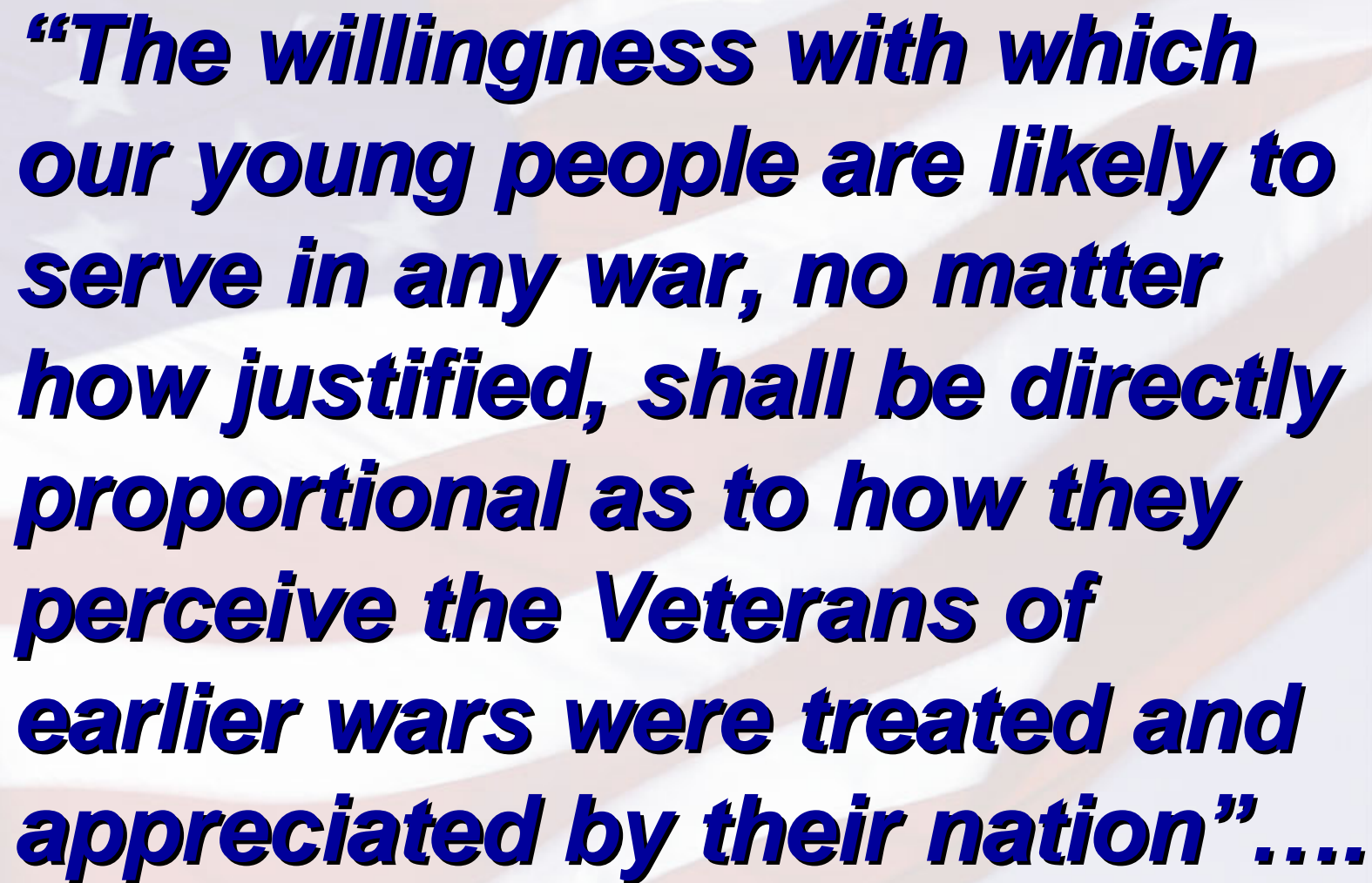
Questions?





Thank you



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Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Veterans Benefits – Arthur Brest

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov




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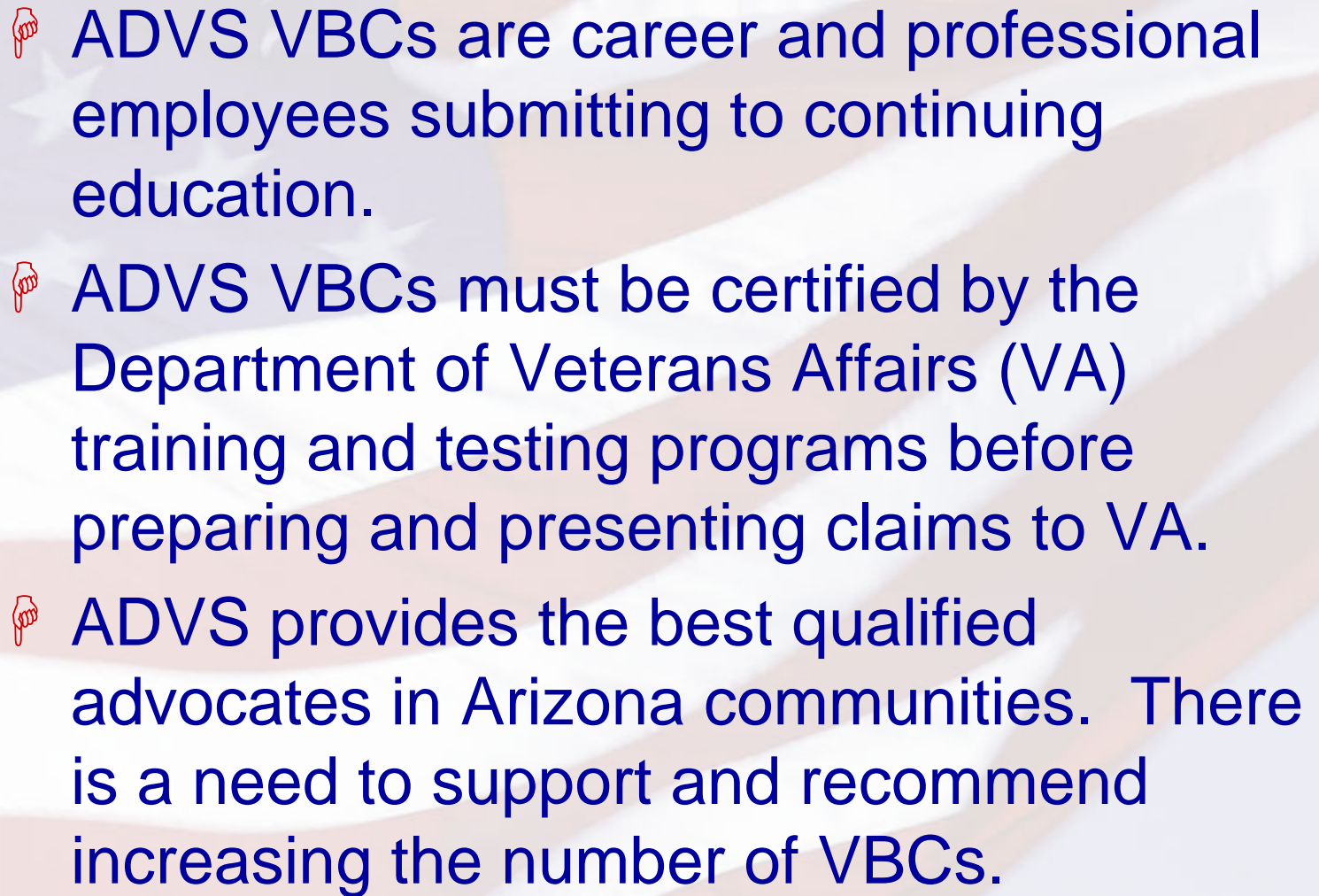
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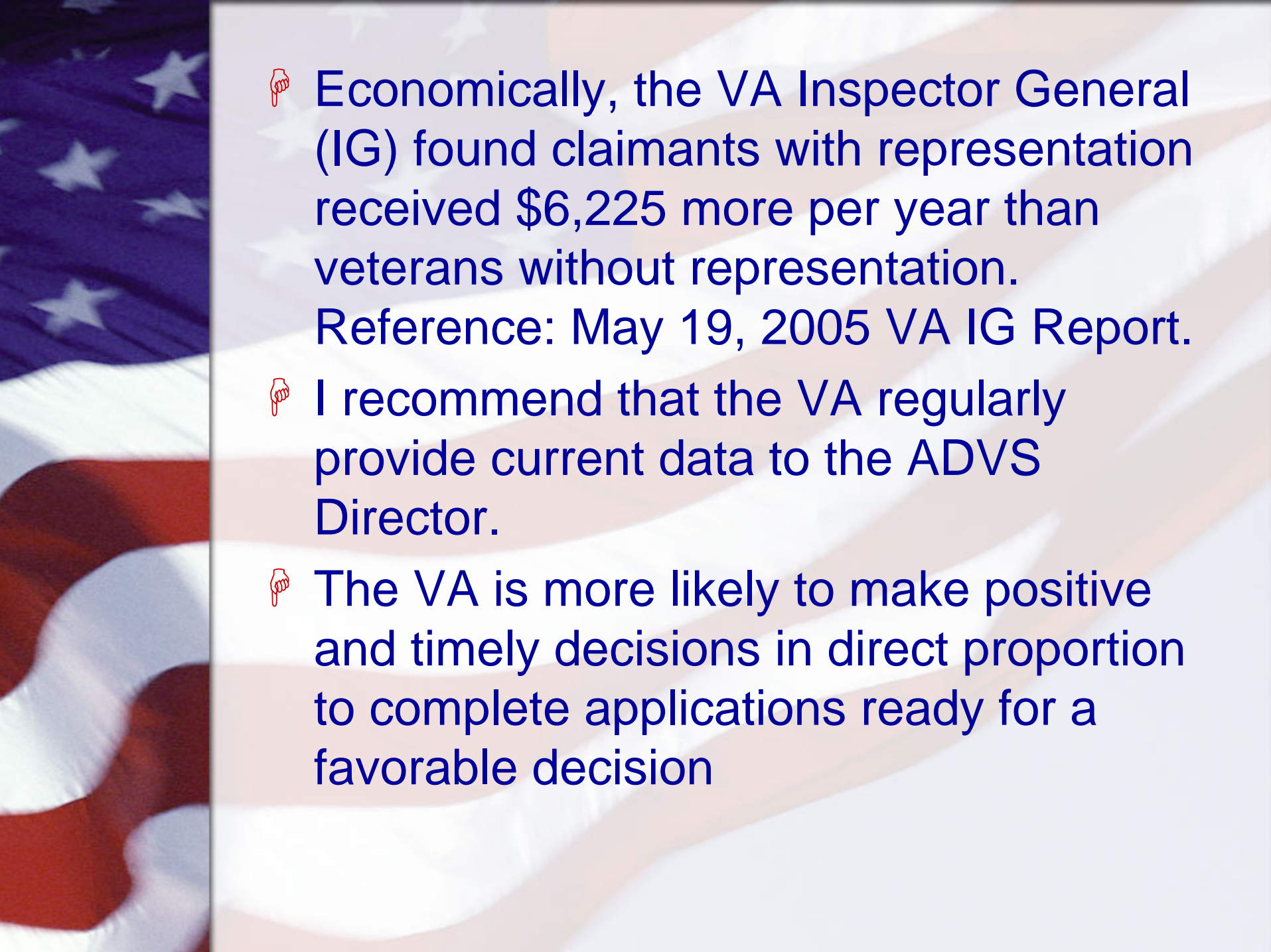
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag. The left side features a vertical strip of the flag's stars and stripes. The rest of the slide has a light blue background with a faint, wavy pattern of the flag's stripes and stars.

My purpose today is to support and recommend increasing the number of Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBCs) in Arizona's communities. These VBCs are essential in successful claims. ADVS VBCs are best qualified Advocates in Arizona Communities.

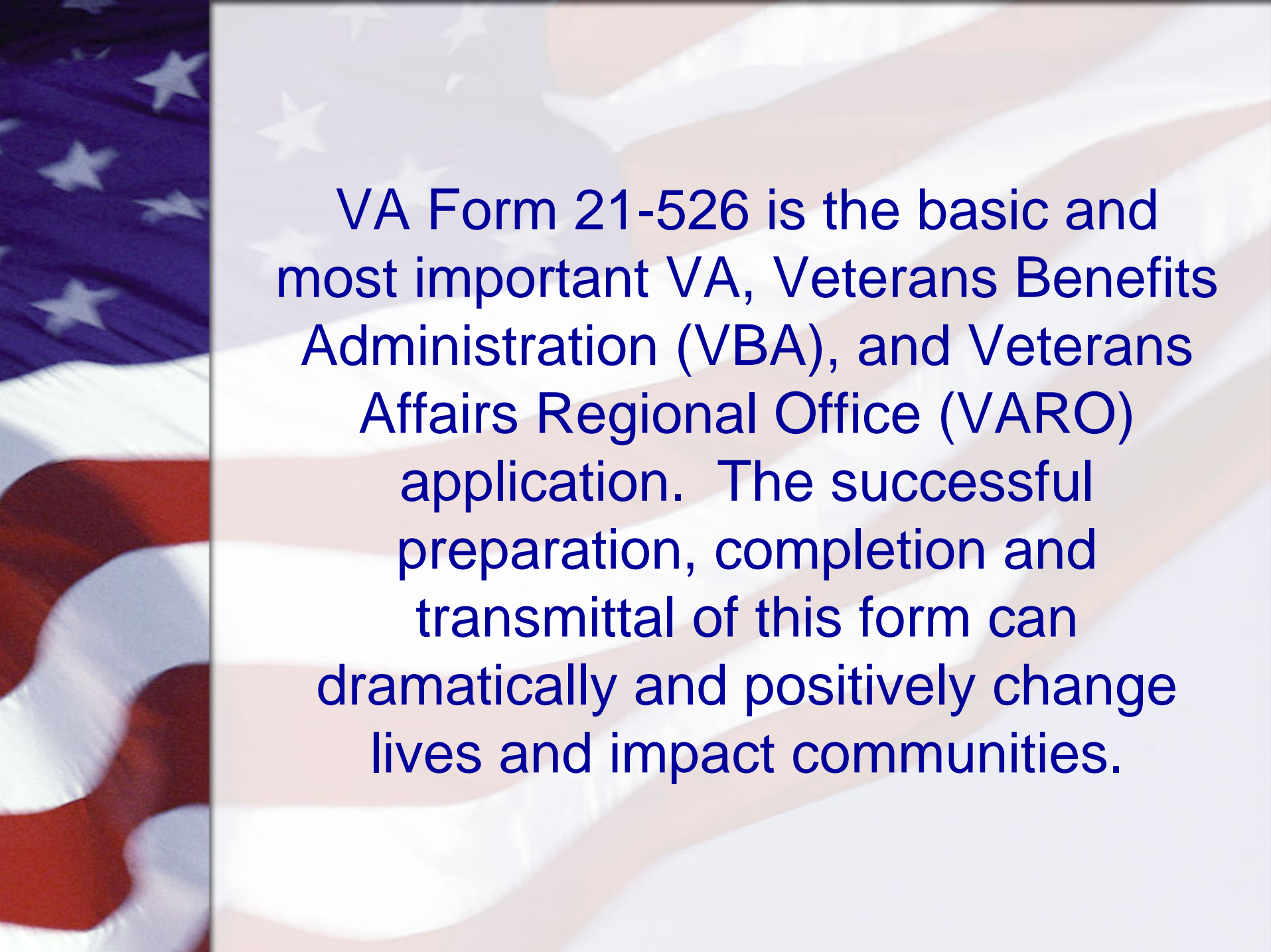
- 
- The background of the slide features a stylized American flag. The left side shows the blue field with white stars, while the right side shows the red and white stripes. The stripes are wavy and blend into the background.
- ➡ ADVS VBCs are career and professional employees submitting to continuing education.
 - ➡ ADVS VBCs must be certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) training and testing programs before preparing and presenting claims to VA.
 - ➡ ADVS provides the best qualified advocates in Arizona communities. There is a need to support and recommend increasing the number of VBCs.

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

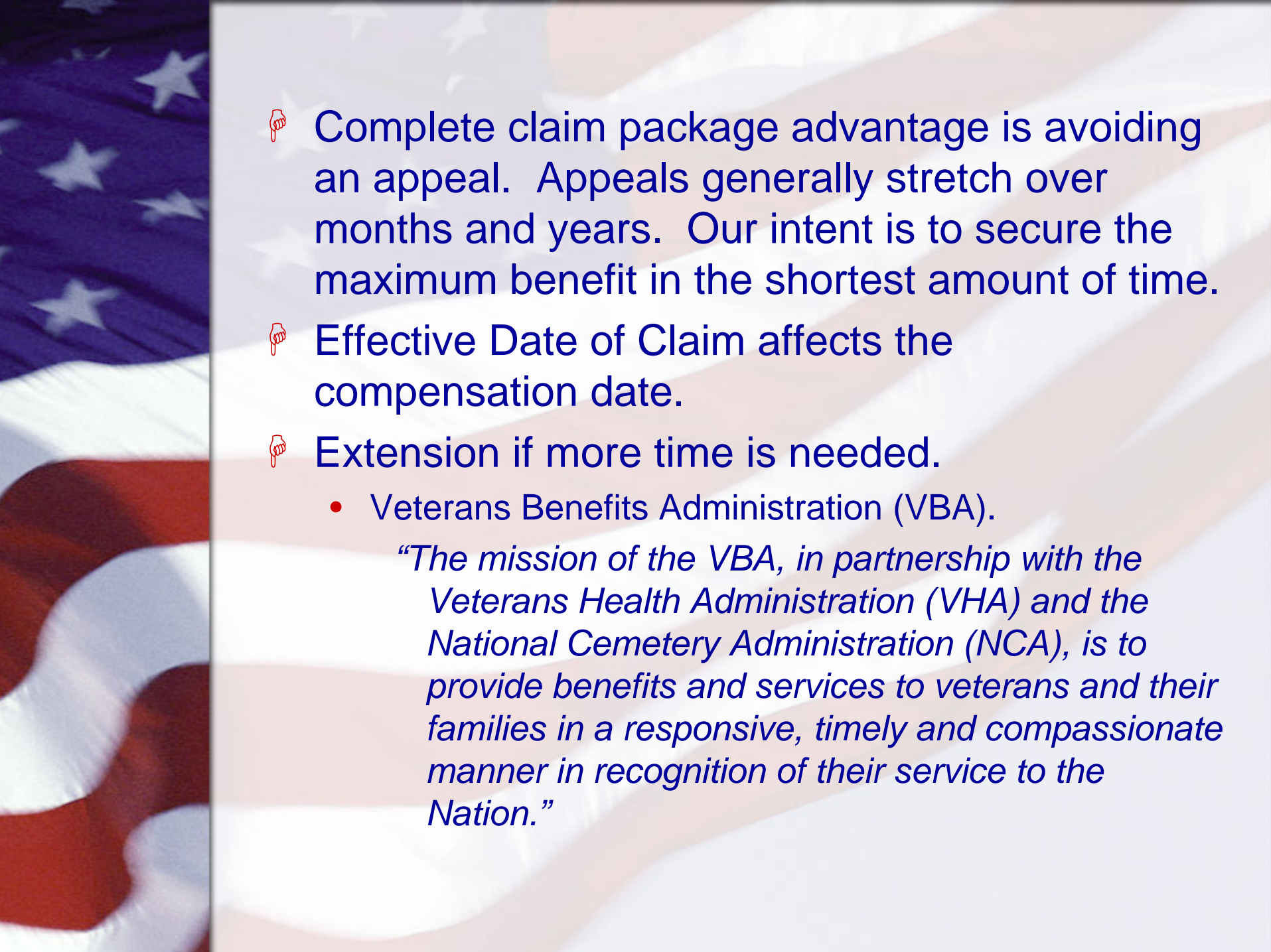
❏ Economically, the VA Inspector General (IG) found claimants with representation received \$6,225 more per year than veterans without representation.
Reference: May 19, 2005 VA IG Report.

❏ I recommend that the VA regularly provide current data to the ADVS Director.

❏ The VA is more likely to make positive and timely decisions in direct proportion to complete applications ready for a favorable decision

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag. The left side shows a vertical strip of the flag's blue field with white stars. The rest of the slide has a light blue background with faint, wavy horizontal stripes in white and a light red/pink color, mimicking the flag's design.

VA Form 21-526 is the basic and most important VA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO) application. The successful preparation, completion and transmittal of this form can dramatically and positively change lives and impact communities.

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☞ Complete claim package advantage is avoiding an appeal. Appeals generally stretch over months and years. Our intent is to secure the maximum benefit in the shortest amount of time.

☞ Effective Date of Claim affects the compensation date.

☞ Extension if more time is needed.

- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

“The mission of the VBA, in partnership with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), is to provide benefits and services to veterans and their families in a responsive, timely and compassionate manner in recognition of their service to the Nation.”

Claims and Appeals through a VA Report for Arizona on September 26th, 2005 (one day snapshot)

- 👉 7,242 Rating Cases Pending
- 👉 1,483 Rating Cases Pending Over 180 days
- 👉 20% Pending Over 180 days
- 👉 1,849 Appeals Pending
- 👉 272 Statements of the Case
- 👉 1,577 Appeals Requiring Adjudicative Action
- 👉 When a claim is denied and an appeal processed, it can take years (yes years!).



One
Veteran's
Claim



Questions?





Thank you





Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Veterans Benefits Counselors – Luella Emmons

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov



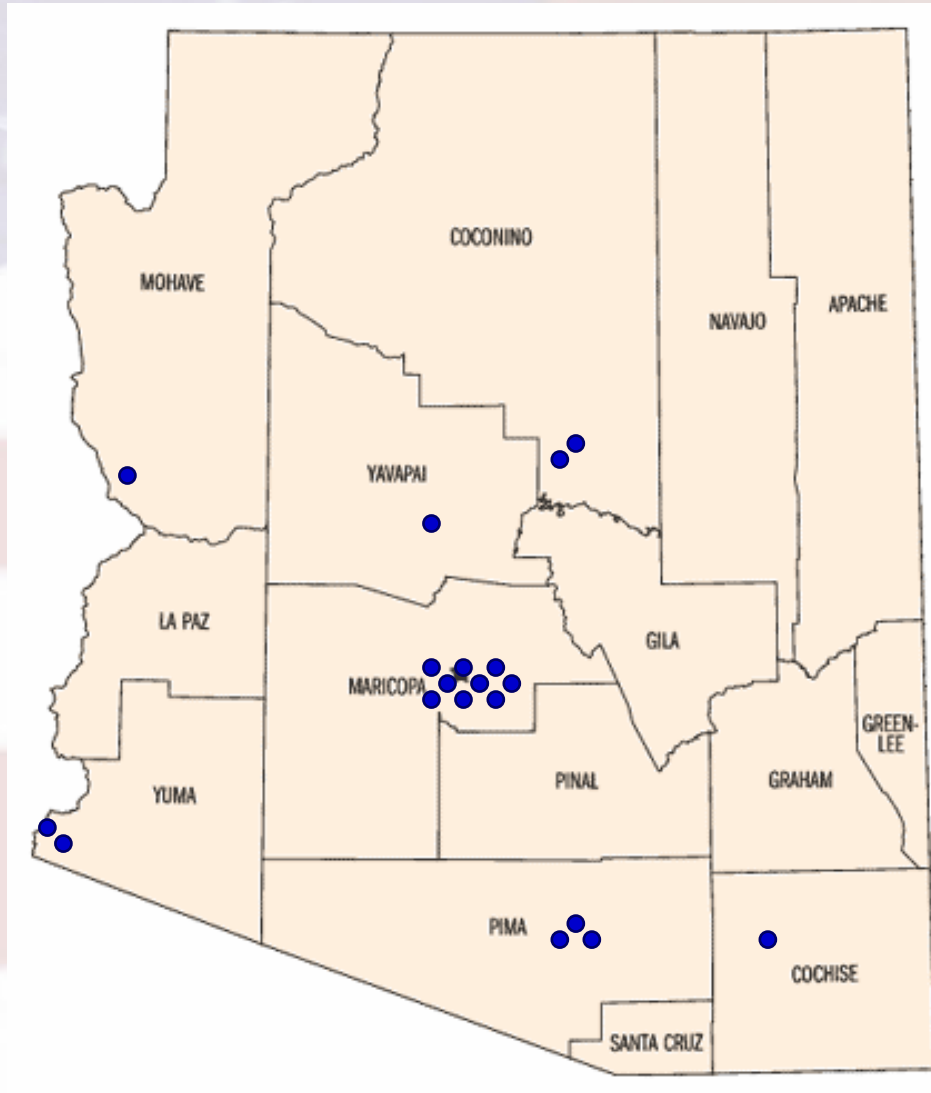
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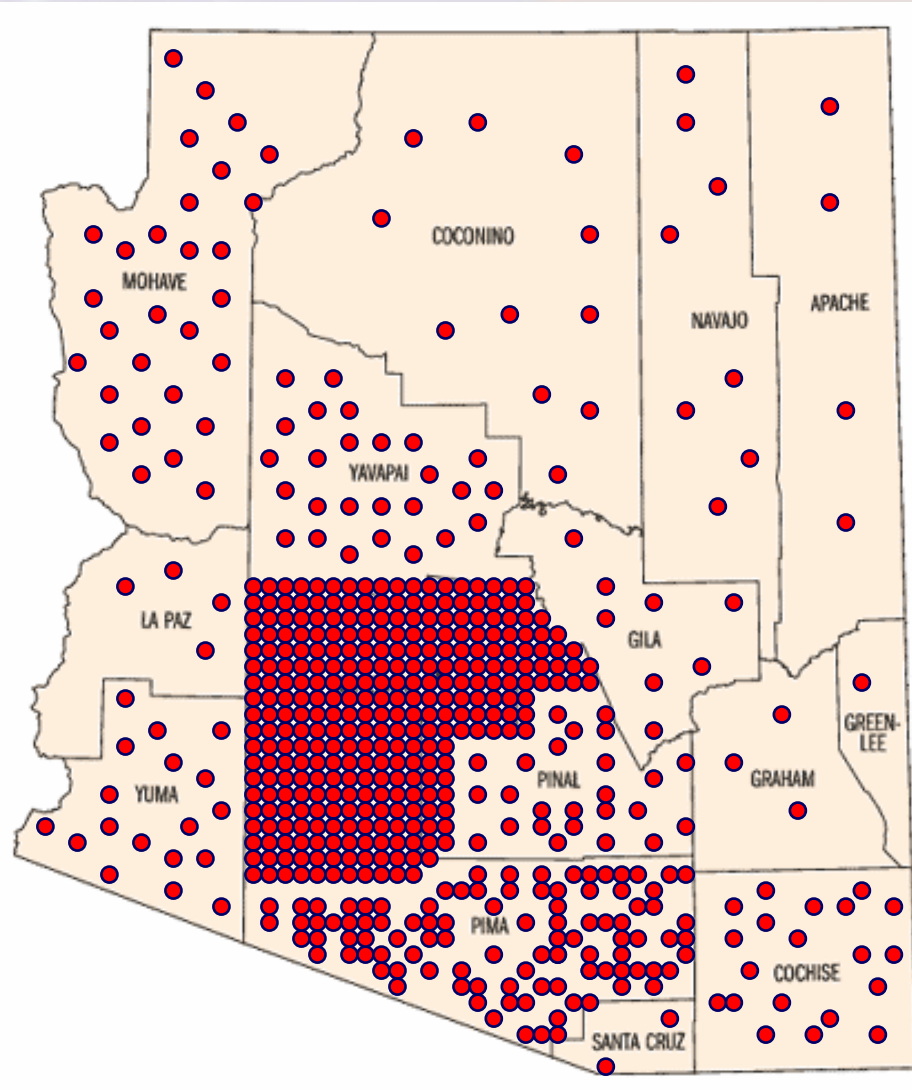
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

VETERANS' BENEFITS COUNSELORS



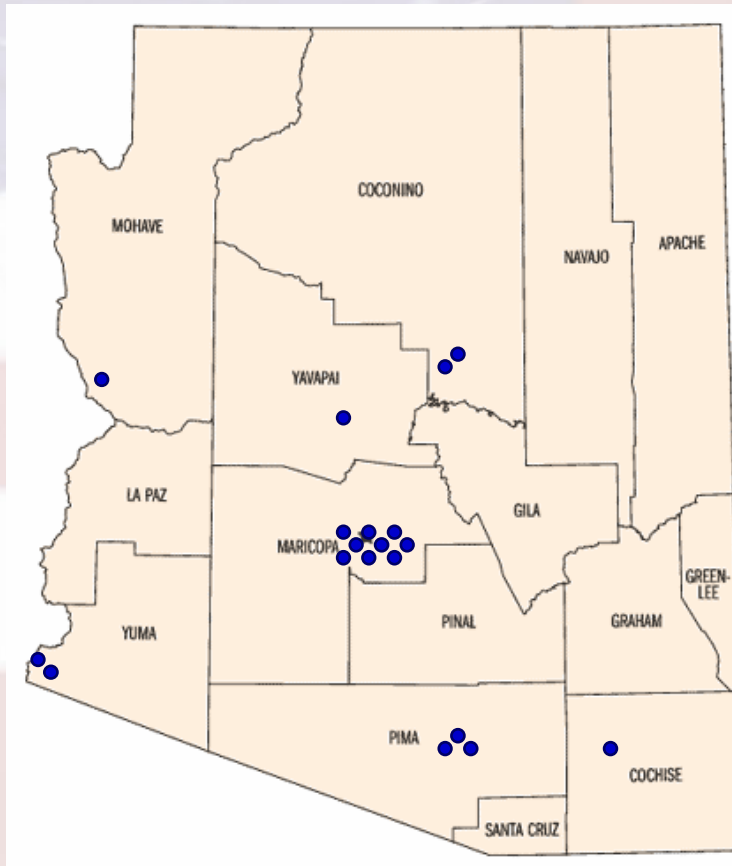
**Each Blue
Dot
Represents
1 Certified
State
Veterans
Benefits
Counselor**

VETERANS IN ARIZONA

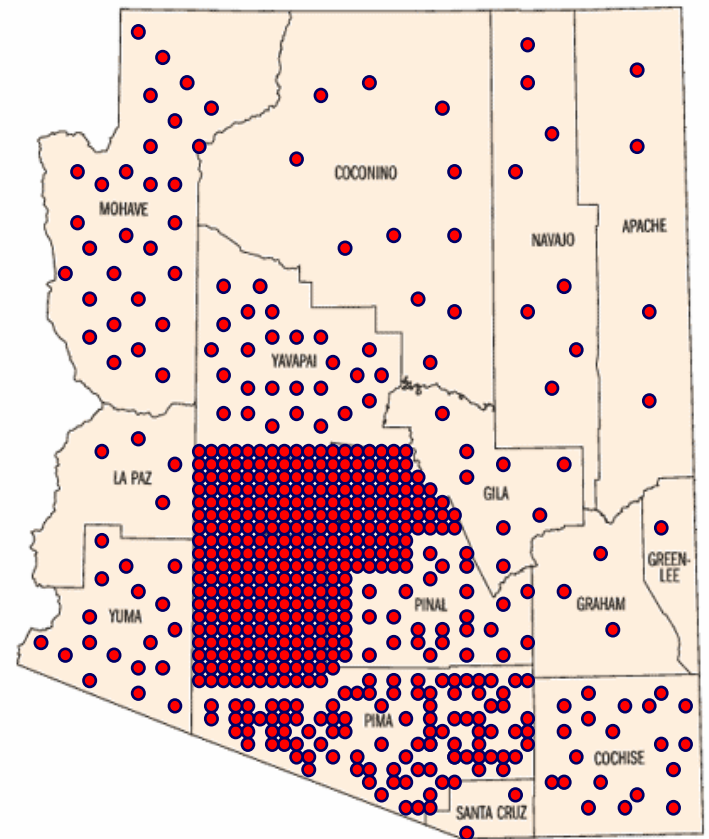


Each Red
Dot
represents
1,000
Veterans

QUESTIONS?



**Each Blue Dot Represents
1 Veterans Benefits Counselor**



**Each Red Dot represents
1,000 Veterans**



Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Veterans Cemeteries – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov



Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

Veterans Cemeteries

- 👉 **Project partnership**
- 👉 **Sierra Vista State Cemetery**
- 👉 **Future Cemetery Plans**

Boot Hill





Questions?





Thank you






Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

State Cemeteries Fiscal Overview – J. Gary Noviello, CPA

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov



Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

State of Arizona Accepts Responsibility for Cemetery Program

FY 2000

- \$500,000 general fund appropriation to pay for preconstruction costs of the Sierra Vista Cemetery

FY 2001

- \$252,300 authorized to be spent from the contingency fund to pay for additional preconstruction costs

Estimated Annual Operating Costs

FYs 2001 through 03

- Notes in all three appropriation reports indicate the state will accept responsibility for the cemetery's operating costs

FY 2001 appropriations report estimates M&O costs to be

- \$235,200 for Years 1-10
- \$322,100 for Years 11-20
- \$407,000 for Years 21+

Appropriations History



FY 2002

- Cemetery Fund 2481 created authorizing ADVS to build up to three veterans cemeteries
- \$215,000 general fund appropriation for M&O later reduced to \$110,200 due to budget cuts

Appropriations History

FYs 2003 and 2004

- \$106,700 and \$129,000, respectively, in general fund appropriations for M&O
- Authorization provided to use the Cemetery Fund 2481 for M&O FY 2004
- Fund balance decreases from \$500,000 to \$317,500

Appropriations History



FY 2005

- \$134,700 general fund appropriation for M&O
- Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 established to help defray costs of M&O
- Revoked authorization to use the Cemetery Fund 2481 for M&O

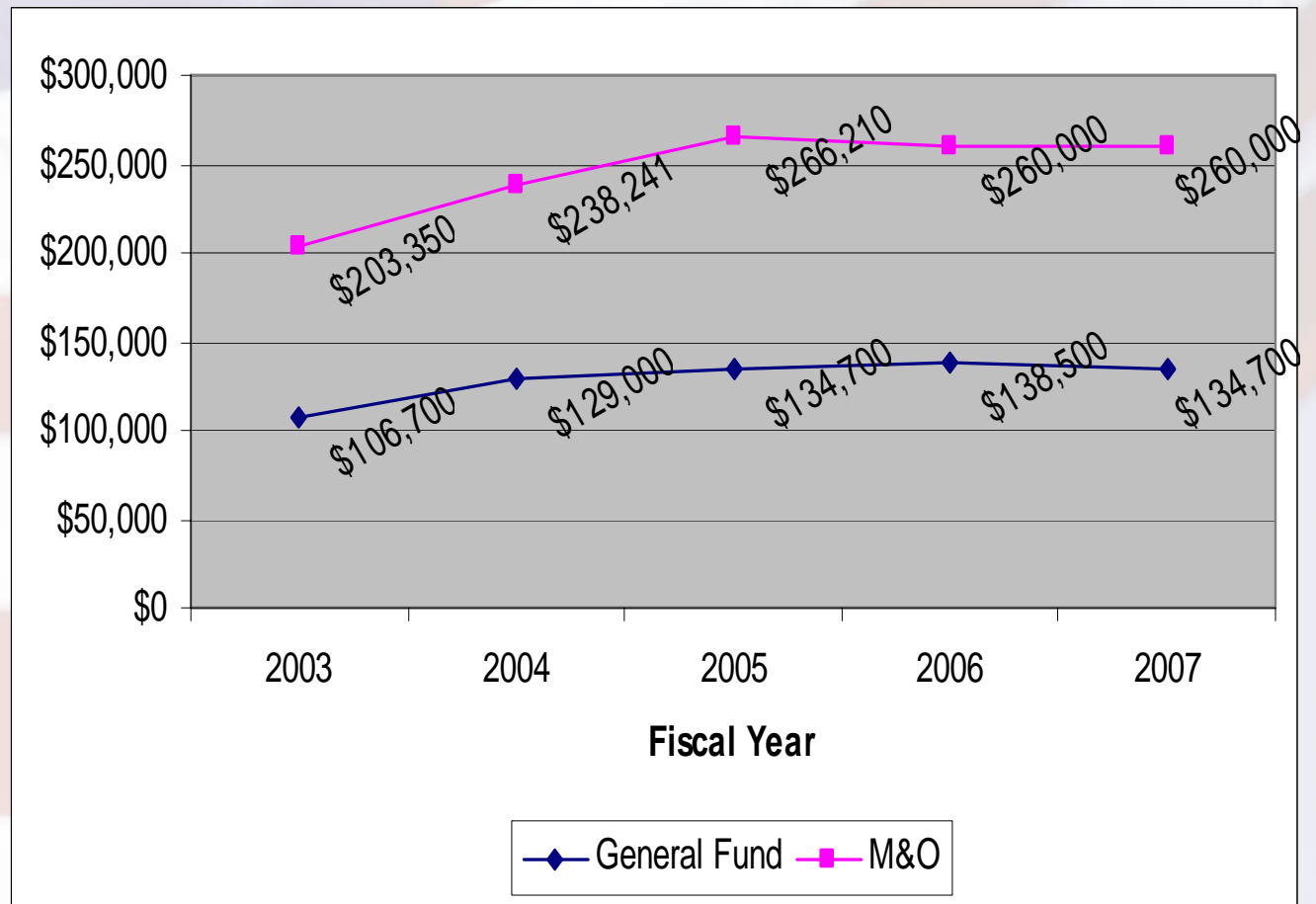
Appropriations History



FYs 2006 and 2007

- \$138,500 and \$134,700 in general fund appropriations for M&O
- Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 to be used to help defray costs of M&O

M&O Costs V General Fund Appropriations (FYs 2003-07)



Outlook



Annually

- *M&O costs are ~ \$260,000*
- *General fund appropriations are ~ \$135,000*
- *Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 revenues are ~ \$90,000*



Thus

- *Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 will be out of money by June 30, 2007*
- *No funds will be set aside to pay for perpetual care once the cemetery has reached full occupancy*



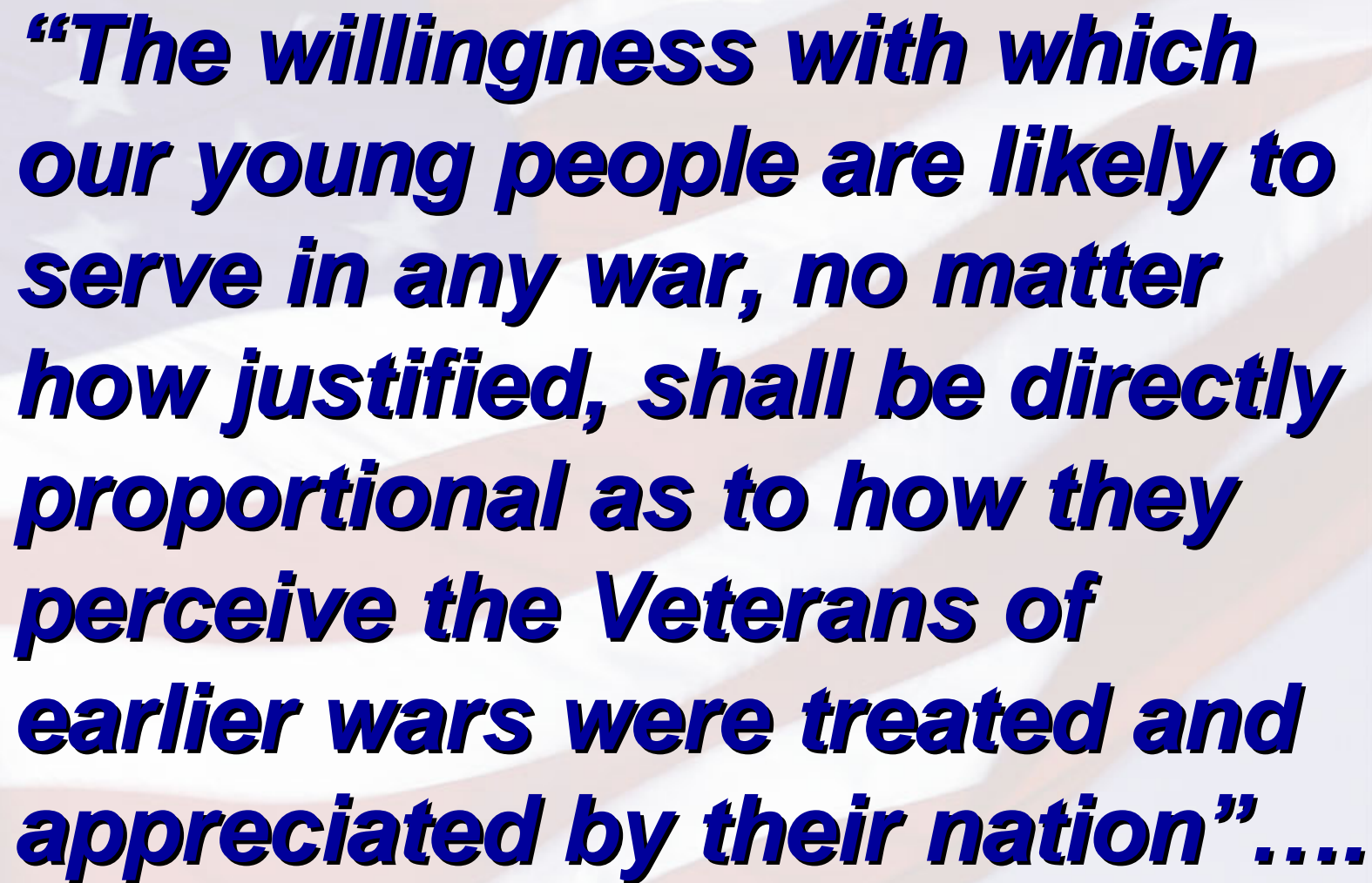
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